

Schwerdtle, Jenna

From: karck70@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 2:02 PM
To: PDTestimony
Cc: info@accessconnecticut.org
Subject: Support for SB 113

February 14, 2020

Dear Legislatures,

I was put up for adoption from Woodfield Family Services in Connecticut on July 23, 1970.

In June of 2005, I received a call from a man claiming to be my biological father. At that time, my children were 2 and 4 years old. So many emotions filled me, from excitement to fear. He told me he had always known I existed but began searching for me when a hereditary heart medical condition had been diagnosed. He sent me a DNA kit to confirm his search. Weeks later, the results showed I was not his daughter. I was devastated and happy all at once, a renewed interest in trying to find my birth parents became my mission, more importantly, to find medical family history for myself, my children, my grandchildren, and so on. My search yielded some answers, but that doesn't need to be addressed now.

You have to understand, that we as adoptees do not have what everyone else has, their original birth certificates. We were never given consideration years ago. Our voice needs to be heard now. We should have this information, not only for ourselves but for our generations to come.

Many adoptees are turning to online ancestry services and are finding biological family with a simple swab of saliva. The promise made to birth mothers years ago, is a process that cannot be kept today due to technological advancements. It cannot be silenced.

I can only speak for myself when I say; I am not looking for Holidays and picnic celebrations, but for answers. I want to know my ethnicity. I want to be able to fill out a health history form for myself and my children at a doctor's visit without putting an X through the pages stating "I'm adopted, no medical history".

And what about the fathers that do not know they have a child. I for one know that mine was not told about me. Maybe he will welcome me, maybe he won't; but shouldn't he have a voice?

Please pass SB 113. The hole in my heart needs to be made whole. My children deserve this.

Connecticut would be joining other states who have opened birth records.

Thank you,

Kimberly Kerstetter
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